



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEE'S SUMMIT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO COMPUTER HACKING

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Lee's Summit, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to hacking into his employer's computer system.

Kenneth C. Way, 51, of Lee's Summit, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr., this morning to misdemeanor computer intrusion.

By pleading guilty, **Way** admitted that he intentionally accessed a protected computer without authorization on July 11, 2003, and recklessly caused at least \$5,000 in damage.

Way was employed by H&H Color Lab, located in Raytown, Mo., for approximately 11 years. H&H is a photographic and digital laboratory for professional photographers. In his position with the company, **Way** was responsible for the development and maintenance of H&H's computer system, which controls order entries and tracking, production equipment, billing, invoicing, shipping and packaging. The system also includes customer contact information and credit card data.

In March 2003, **Way** left his position with H&H to work for Custom Color Corporation, in Kansas City, Mo. However, he continued working on a contractual basis with H&H and had remote access to its computer system.

On July 11, 2003, **Way** connected to H&H's computer system but did not login using his own username and password. Instead, he used the company owner's username and password and initiated a command to shutdown the company's computer system. The system was shut down for approximately 12 hours, which caused a loss of at least \$5,000 during a one-year period following July 11, 2003. **Way** did not have authorization to shut down the company's computer system.

Under federal law, Graves explained, Way may be subject to a maximum sentence of up

to one year in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Way was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on June 2, 2004, in Kansas City.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney James Curt Bohling. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow